

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 06173 011638Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 CEQ-01 NRC-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 PA-01
ICA-11 /129 W
-----038101 020519Z /20
R 011530Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4768

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 06173

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, SP
SUBJECT: MARCH 17 BOMBING AT LEMONIZ

REF: STATE 113766

1. EMBOFF VISITED LEMONIZ PLANT ON MAY 15 IN COMPANY OF TWO IBERDUERO OFFICIALS. DURING COURSE OF VISIT EMBOFF MENTIONED INTEREST OF NCR AND DEPARTMENT IN REPORTS ON MARCH 17 BOMBING (INCORRECTLY STATED AS "MARCH 14" BOMBING IN REFTEL SUBJECT). IBERDUERO OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT THE COMPANY HAD COMPLETED A "TECHNICAL" INVESTIGATION AND REPORT, A COPY OF WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO THE JUNTA DE ENERGIA NUCLEAR (JEN). THEY ALSO TOLD EMBOFF THEY WERE CERTAIN THAT SPANISH POLICE HAD MADE A REPORT: HOWEVER, THEY SAID THEY DID NOT THINK ANY COPY OF THIS REPORT HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO IBERDUERO.

2. BASED ON PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS DURING MAY 22 SITE VISIT AND ON PRESS REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF IBERDUERO OFFICIALS, FOLLOWING ANSWERS ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN PARA. 2, REFTEL:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 06173 011638Z

A) LEMONIZ PLANT IS LOCATED ON THE NORTH COAST OF SPAIN (CANTABRIAN SEA) IN AN AREA (A SMALL ROCKY COVE) ALMOST TOTALLY UNPOPULATED (WITHIN 6-7 MILES ONLY ABOUT TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE LIVE); IT LIES ABOUT 30-35 KILOMETERS FROM THE CENTER OF BILBAO, A CITY OF ABOUT 450,000 POPULATION; CONSTRUCTION ON MARCH 17 ON FIRST REACTOR WAS WELL ALONG, WITH STEAM GENERATORS IN

PLACE AND CONTAINMENT BUILDING ALMOST FINISHED;

B) AT TIME OF EMBOFF'S VISIT ON MAY 15, SECURITY WAS VERY GOOD, WITH CHECK OF IDENTIFICATION BADGE AT MAIN GATE AND FURTHER CHECKS AT ENTRY TO MOST WORK AREAS: AT ENTRY TO CONTAINMENT BUILDING ALL PERSONNEL ENTERING WERE "PATTED DOWN" IN ADDITION TO BADGE CHECK; IBERDUERO OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT INTERNAL CHECKS HAD BEEN ADDED SINCE MARCH 17 BOMBING AND THAT CHECK AT MAIN GATE (ESPECIALLY OF WORKERS) HAD BEEN TIGHTENED UP; EMBOFF OBSERVED SEVERAL VEHICLES ENTER MAIN GATE AND ALL WERE APPARENTLY WELL SEARCHED;

C) ALTHOUGH EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE COPY OF ANY OFFICIAL REPORTS (SEE BELOW), IBERDUERO OFFICIALS SAID THAT SPANISH POLICE HAD TOLD THEM THAT EXPLOSIVE USED WAS PROBABLY "GOMA-2" (DYNAMITE) AND, BASED ON DAMAGE CAUSED, AMOUNTED TO ABOUT 3-6 KILOGRAMS; SOME TYPE OF DETONATOR WITH TIMING DEVICE WAS PROBABLY USED, SINCE GROUP CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY (ETA) STATED IN LETTER TO SPANISH PRESS THAT TELEPHONED WARNING WAS MADE TO LEMONIZ ABOUT TEN MINUTES BEFORE EXPLOSIVE WAS DUE TO DETONATE; EXPLOSIVE WAS LOCATED IN BASE OF PRIMARY STEAM GENERATOR, WHICH WAS INSTALLED IN FINAL POSITION AT TIME OF BLAST;

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 06173 011638Z

D) IBERDUERO OFFICIALS SAID THAT DAMAGE WAS LIMITED TO STEAM GENERATOR IN WHICH EXPLOSION OCCURRED: EMBOFF'S VISUAL ESTIMATE WAS THAT HOLE APPROXIMATELY TWO FEET IN DIAMETER WAS BLOWN IN BASE OF GENERATOR; FINAL ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE HAS NOT BEEN MADE, ACCORDING TO IBERDUERO, AND THEY CANNOT SAY AT THIS TIME WHETHER GENERATOR WILL HAVE TO BE REPLACED OR CAN BE REPAIRED; THEY STATED THAT THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO OTHER COMPONENTS OR TO CONTAINMENT BUILDING;

E) AS STATED ABOVE THE "ETA" ORGANIZATION HAS PUBLICLY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMBING; NUMBER AND IDENTITY ARE UNKNOWN; IBERDUERO OFFICIALS SAID THEY ASSUMED THAT AT LEAST ONE WORKER WAS INVOLVED IN THE BOMBING, I.E. THAT IT WAS A TYPE OF "INSIDE JOB"; ALTHOUGH THERE IS CONSIDERABLE ANTI-NUCLEAR SENTIMENT IN THE BASQUE AREA WHERE THE LEMONIZ PLANT IS LOCATED, THE ETA ORGANIZATION IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND IS PROBABLY SIMPLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS SENTIMENT: IN THEIR LETTER TO THE PRESS THE ETA PEOPLE TRIED TO DISCLAIM ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATH OF THE TWO IBERDUERO WORKERS.

3. COMMENT/ACTION REQUESTED: IBERDUERO OFFICIALS SAID THEY WOULD PREFER THAT EMBASSY SEEK COPY OF THEIR REPORT FROM JUNTA DE ENERGIA NUCLEAR OR THROUGH REQUEST TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. EMBASSY COULD ALSO REQUEST COPY OF POLICE REPORT IN THIS MANNER, IF DESIRED. REQUEST WE BE INFORMED IF DEPARTMENT WISHES EMBASSY TO FORWARD AN OFFICIAL REQUEST TO MFA FOR THE REPORTS. EMBASSY MIGHT POSSIBLY OBTAIN COPIES OF REPORT AT SOME POINT THROUGH LEGAL ATTACHE'S OFFICE OR FROM CONTACTS AT JUNTA DE ENERGIA NUCLEAR, ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT CERTAIN. EATON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID06173
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-0657
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806108/aaaadomu.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e5d8417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 113766
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2162762
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 17 BOMBING AT LEMONIZ
TAGS: TECH, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e5d8417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014